

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 00478 311526Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 SSO-00 SY-05 INR-10

INRE-00 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1751

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0478

STADIS////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, OVIP (BANDA, H. KAMUZU)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANDA PLANS PRIVATE VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: (A) LILONGWE 383; (B) LILONGWE 106

(C) 77 LILONGWE 508; (D) STATE 43114

1. THIS MORNING I WAS CALLED TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BY PERMSEC KACHINGWE WHO HAD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND REQUEST FOR US. PRESIDENT BANDA HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM "FRIENDS" TO VISIT THE U.S. TENTATIVELY HE EXPECTS TO LEAVE HERE ON APRIL 14 FOR LONDON, STAY THERE FOR TWO WEEKS AND ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 27. HE WOULD PLAN TO STAY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT TWO DAYS AND THEN MAKE "OTHER VISITS", DEPARTING U.S. ON OR ABOUT MAY 8. RE "OTHER VISITS", KACHINGWE EXPECTS HE WILL GO TO INDIANA TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE AND THEN PROBABLY VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO FROM WHICH HE RECEIVED HIS UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND THEN TO MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE AT NASHVILLE WHERE HE RECEIED HIS M.D.

2. WHILE IN THE U.S. ON THIS "PRIVATE VISIT", BANDA
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WOULD LIKE TO PAY A COURTESY CALL, IF POSSIBLE, ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND, IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE.

3. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BANDA TOMORROW MORNING AT 0900 IN BLANTYRE AT WHICH TIME HE WILL INDICATE TO ME MORE PRECISLY THE DATES AND THE PLACES WHICH HE INTENDS TO VISIT.

4. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED (REFTLs B AND C), BANDA HAS HAD THIS VISIT IN MIND FOR A LONG TIME. APPARENTLY HE GAVE UP ON GETTING AN ANSWER TO THE "SOUNDING" REPORTED IN REFTEL A AND HAS NOW MADE THIS DIRECT APPROACH. AS WE HAVE REPORTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BANDA HAS VERY FOND MEMORIES OF HIS YEARS IN THE U.S. AND A STRONG FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP FOR OUR COUNTRY. CONSIDERING HIS AGE (76-80), HE MAY WELL BE THINKING OF THIS AS HIS LAST VISIT. I STRONGLY URGE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THAT HIS REQUEST TO MAKE THE ABOVE CALLS BE GRANTED.

5. IF YOU WOULD HAVE ANY COMMENT OR REACTION TO ABOVE WHICH YOU THINK COULD BE USEFUL TO ME FOR MY CALL TOMORROW MORNING, PLEASE CABLE IMMEDIATELY.

6. I AM, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO ADJUST MY OWN PERSONAL PLANS TO THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY THINK NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.

STEVENSON

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